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THE "BANCROFT LOCAL."

Although considerable has been said and written in reference to this stamp, and although its spurious character has been fully written up in the "Stamp Collector's Monthly Gazette" published in this city some years ago, yet as we have up to the present time advocated its collection, we now willingly give space to the following from the pen of an able subscriber: — About the year 1865 a couple of gentlemen identified with stamp collecting in the city of Montreal, called upon Mr. Bancroft the owner of an Express, which bore his name, in Great St. James' St. and obtained permission from that gentlemen to use his name in connection with a forthcoming local stamp; which they were about to issue. The furore for "locals" was then at its height, and the collection which did not contain at least 300 or 400 United States Locals, passed for hardly any account at all. The "Bancroft" was a *real* stamp in no proper sense of the word. It was a purely manufactured article, made to sell only, and had no real existence as a legitimate "local" in anyway. Like the famous New Brunswick Local "Baldwin's Railroad Postage two-pence," and the equally infamous "Fenian Stamp," it was the coinage of the brain of an over-ute sharp stamp dealer. Mr. Bancroft must not be held in any way responsible for the dodge, for dodge it certainly was, and the only object aimed at in its

existence at all; was the one desiderative to fleece Philatelists, and in this humane desire the manufacturers were only partly successful. The stamp was in existence but a short time, never in use, and one day the Government stepped in and forbade its issue. Those on hand were destroyed, by order; but as is usually the case, some were held over, and these no doubt are the ones that are in the market. They are spurious stamps, fit only to be preserved as curiosities of their publicity.

The November number of the "Curiosity Hunter" is on our table. This little paper began its life very humbly, coming out in 4 pages in September last. The October number appeared enlarged to 8 pages, and now the November number comes to hand, in a neat and handsome cover, and containing many interesting and well written articles interesting alike to coin collectors and timbrophilists. Most heartily we tender its gentlemanly editor our sincere congratulations upon the success with which it has met.

We acknowledge with pleasure the receipt of Ulexes' Catalogue of Postage Stamps issued in Hamburg, it is probably the handsomest published on the Continent, but as it is printed in German, with which language we are not conversant, we cannot more than notice its handsome appearance and general magnificent "get up."